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What is claimed is:

A dental floss dispenser, comprising;

a closure for a container of an extrudible dentrifice having an upper engagement part,

a container for dental floss comprising a base wall and a side wall extending upwardly from the periphery of the side wall to define an open-topped compartment for a spool of dental floss,

a closure engagement part on a lower surface of the container able to engage with the engagement part of the closure to thereby attach the compartment, the engagement part of the closure and the closure engagement part being shaped so that the respective engagement parts engage only in a single orientation,

a lid for the open-topped compartment integrally made with the side wall and integrally hinged thereto so that the lid can move about the hinge into a closing relationship with the open topped compartment,

an axle suitable to rotatably mount a spool of dental floss thereon projecting from one of said base wall or said lid and the other of the lid or base wall having an axle engagement part thereon, the axle having an engagement part at its end remote from respectively said lower wall or lid such that when the lid is hinged into a closing relationship with the compartment the axle engagement part and the engagement part of the axle engaging to hold the lid in the closed relationship,

an aperture in said side wall through which dental floss within the compartment may pass, the lid comprising an obstructer part which partly closes the aperture when the lid is in its closing relationship with the compartment,

a floss-cutting blade mounted on the compartment adjacent the outer surface of the side wall, the floss-cutting blade having a cutting edge and an opposite edge defining a blade axis between them, and defining a floss path between the aperture and the cutting edge,

a bridge part between the aperture and the cutting blade into contact with which the floss is brought when the floss is taut between the aperture and the cutting blade, a WO 2004/110295 PCT/US2004/010365

part of the outer surface of the side wall between the bridge part and the cutting blade having a concave profile relative to a line between the bridge part and the cutting blade,

the blade being mounted such that the cutting edge is further from the aperture than the opposite edge and the blade axis is aligned at an angle 0-45° to the floss path,

a cover integrally made with the lid and integrally hinged thereto so that the cover can move about the hinge into a covering relationship with the aperture and blade.

- 2. A dental floss dispenser, comprising a container for a spool of dental floss provided with an axle suitable to rotatably mount a spool of dental floss thereon, the spool comprising a toroidal member with an axial hole through which the axle is threaded when the spool is mounted thereon, the axle and the inner surface of the hole having parts which frictionally engage to hinder free relative rotation of the spool on the axle.
- 3. A dispenser for dental floss, comprising a container for dental floss comprising a wall, an aperture in the wall through which dental floss within the compartment may pass, and an obstructer part which partly closes the aperture.
- 4. A dispenser for dental floss, comprising a container for dental floss comprising a wall, an aperture in the wall through which dental floss within the compartment may pass, a floss-cutting blade mounted on the compartment adjacent the outer surface of the side wall, the floss-cutting blade having a cutting edge and an opposite edge defining a blade axis between them, and defining a floss path between the aperture and the cutting edge, the blade being mounted such that the cutting edge is further from the aperture than the opposite edge and the blade axis is aligned at an angle 0-45° to the floss path.
- 5. A dispenser for dental floss, comprising a container for dental floss comprising a base wall and a side wall extending upwardly from the periphery of the side wall to define an open-topped compartment for a spool of dental floss,

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an axle suitable to rotatably mount a spool of dental floss thereon projecting from one of said base wall or said lid and the other of the lid or base wall having an axle engagement part thereon, the axle having an engagement part at its end remote from respectively said lower wall or lid such that when the lid is hinged into a closing relationship with the compartment the axle engagement part and the engagement part of the axle engaging to hold the lid in the closed relationship,

the axle supporting the lid against compressive forces tending to distort the lid.